Adjournment Motion regarding a channel between Cochin and Ernakulam.

President.—There is an adjournment motion under Standing Order No. 13 in the name of Mr. P. Krishna Menon. It is to point out "the urgent necessity of immediately providing a safe and speedy ferry service between Mattancheri and Ernakulam and as the present service has become unnecessarily circuitous and positively dangerous on account of the dredging operations in connection with the Cochin Harbour Works".

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Before that, the Secretary announced something, which we could not understand.

President.—The Council Secretary will announce a Bill assented to by His Highness.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We have not understood what Bill that is.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Nothing was announced here.

President.—After question time I took up the adjournment motion. That is the general rule. So I said you may wait till that is disposed of.

Is it a matter of urgent public importance, this opening of a new ferry service between Mattancheri and Ernakulam?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The ferry service is an urgent matter because we are in the midst of the monsoon now, and we will be having a very short interval, unless provision is made before the next monsoon.

President.—The question is engaging the attention of the Government very seriously, and I think in the total cut motion of Mr. Salem he referred to this matter also. Why should this be debated now?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not want to discuss the matter again. I want some assurance that the work will be taken up immediately.

President.—I believe Mr. Koder and myself talked about this to the Chief Engineer, and the matter will be taken up very shortly. I think in the Canal Committee meeting this was referred to.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—All that is on paper only. I want to see, if possible, the work commenced immediately.

President.—What is the difficulty? What steps have been taken so far?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have arranged for discussion with Mr. Milne, and he has promised to consider whether he can spare the dredger, Mannar.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Mannar is in the sick list now. It may take time.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Mannar is not in the sick list.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Now that is another matter. Why can't the actual work be taken up, at least the canal portion? At least the speck-marking canal can be opened, and if it is not injurious, the removal of the silt also may be taken, not through the working of the dredger but by some other means, if possible, so that let us say that the canal work at least is taken up. I do not want to take up the time of the House by any discussion, if there is an assurance that immediately work will be taken up, not correspondence.

President.—We have found the necessity for this, because going by the other way is dangerous. It will become impossible, and these ferry services we want at all times, and they cannot be dispensed with. So we are now finding some means of having a permanent canal near Venduruthi, which will be a convenient route to Mattancheri. All that has been said and I have given my impression of the matter to the Chief Engineer. The only thing is you have to work it out. Do you think that it is likely to cause any delay?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not anticipate any delay. It is much better to start the work with the dredger when we get it.

President.—Can we engage these country boats and work with these *Thoombas*?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is very difficult. If you work with the thoomba, it will again be filled up.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—In my opinion a bund is necessary so that no soil will go outside. So far as expenditure is concerned, Government should meet that.

President.—That is our idea. You want a canal.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Soil is coming from that side. If you put a bund on that side, soil will not come from that side.

President.—This is a matter in which we ought not to stint expenditure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Hon'ble Member is aware of the fact that we take sometimes an hour to go to Cochin?

President.—He knows.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I also know whether there are any bunds in canals that have been dredged by the Harbour steamers to go in? Is there any bund to the channels that have been dug?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I did not say anything about bunds at all. I was saying about the wide canal.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the difficulty? The whole point we are at is: this matter has been engaging the attention of the Durbar for the last two years very actively. The Durbar has referred the matter to the Harbour Board. Mr. Bristow was the Harbour Engineer and now the Engineer is Mr. Milne. They were of opinion that the channel will be silted up. In the meantime owing to other works, the extension to the Venduruthi Reclamations, this was dropped. Children have to go. There is a question of children going to school. Many grown up men cannot stand heavy waves. Little children coming to school get very much frightened. The matter has become very urgent and of public importance. It should be discussed. It will strengthen the hands of the Government. On account of the Harbour works these things are coming. The Harbour people are bound to give us a canal, in any case, for our ordinary wants.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—You may wait for that.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We will not wait. The Hon'ble Member does not care so long as he is cushion-seated. We are suffering. The boat used to take us in 20 minutes' time. This is important. I had a hand in the ferry at that time. I was taking a very strong view of the matter. Is it that they must go right through the Venduruthi Reclamation itself? That is a different matter. What is it that we ask? Only give us a six feet deep channel. It is not a very difficult thing. There are two to three feet already there.

President.—Will you get Mannar there?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We do not want Mannar.

President.—Don't get angry.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am not angry. What is the difficulty? If three feet of soil is taken out of the place between Venduruthi Reclamation and Venduruthi the thing will be done.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I would be very glad if that is so. We have to dig 100 feet wide and about 10 feet deep.

President.—Government is as much earnest as you in the matter. My opinion has been communicated to the Cheief Engineer, and we will arrange. I was only waiting for the Public Works budget to be over. We must start the work at once. We do not want to put the matter under correspondence alone.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Yes, Sir.

President.—Then why don't you support us?

Mr. S. S. Koder.—I am supporting, Sir.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is he ever different from the Government?

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Mr. S. S. Koder.—That is a bad insinuation.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I take it that the construction of a channel is finally decided upon?

President.—So far as I am concerned, it is decided.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Then the question is the method of removing soil by dredging or some other way. But some preliminary work has to be done.

President.—We are going to start it. I was only waiting for the Chief Engineer to get through his budget. We are going to investigate that matter. Actual work on the spot will be taken up without any delay.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—It is quite necessary.

President.—We are earnest about the thing.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there any provision in the budget?

President.—We can come with an additional allotment. We can incur the expenditure in anticipation of sanction.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—With this assurance I withdraw.

President.—I do not think it is necessary to debate this matter. We have come to a conclusion in this matter already. I have taken up the matter.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The motion has not been admitted, what is the meaning of withdrawing?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So much the better.

President.—The Member does not press his request.

Announcement of a Bill assented to by His Highness the Maharaja

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I have the honour to announce to the House that the Cochin Census Bill, passed by the Legislative Council on Thursday, the 19th of Medam 1105, has received the gracious assent of His Highness the Maharaja on the 20th of Karkadagam 1105.

Voting of Demands for Grants.

15. XVIII—Education—Rs. 13,81,678.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Sir, I rise to move a grant of Rs. 13,81,678 under the head 'Education'. I do not think I need take up much of the time of this House at this stage because I had more than my due share of time at the general discussion when a good many points connected with education were discussed, and I tried to answer the charges that were levelled against the administration in general and this Department in particular. I may point out to this House that as regards the main point—as far as I could see from the trend of the general discussion, the main charge against the educational

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